

21st April 2023

Dear families of year 8 students

On January 6th Ms Rogers wrote to you explaining the changes to the curriculum for year 8 next year. Although most subjects will be studied by all year 9 students, there is some student choice about the language and the design subject they would prefer to study.

Students can pick one language that they would like to carry on with next year from the two they currently study. They can also pick one design subject they would like to study next year.

The design subject they pick might not be one of the two they currently study as we know not all students could get their preferred choices in year 8.

Students need to think carefully about their choice now as it will impact on the options available for them in Year 10. They will not be able to choose a language or design subject for GCSE in year 10 if they have not studied it in year 9.

We are also interested in their current thinking about these subjects as possible GCSE options in year 10 but of course they may change their mind during next year so this is just for our interest at this stage.

Please use the information below to discuss the options available and then ask your child to complete the [Year 8 options 2023](#) form by **Thursday 4th May** at the latest.

Students will choose a language from four options, French, German, Mandarin or Spanish. If your child currently only takes one language and Key Skills they should select that language on the form.

In order to support students making their Design option choice for Year 9 study, we provide the following information to summarise the key aspects of each subject.

Year 9 will be delivered mainly as a skills development and knowledge acquisition year to act as a basis for GCSE learning and to develop general dexterity and creativity skills. The year will not cover all aspects listed below, but the descriptions should provide a clearer indication of each subject's individuality.

Design subjects teach students about the visual world: aesthetics, purpose and function and develops understanding of past and present artisans, designers and artists. All four disciplines are



process-based subjects that require students to research and build understanding, experiment, plan, develop and problem solve before creating.

Graphic Communication: explores visual communication methods such as typography (fonts), illustration, promotional advertising and logos. Development is through a variety of processes that are both art-based (such as lino printing and stencilling) and CAD-based using Photoshop programmes.

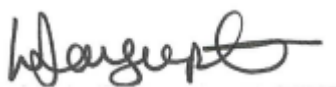
3D Design: explores various hand built and CAD processes to design a functional product that meets a design brief. 3D drawing and understanding the varied properties of materials such as wood and Perspex are core features.

Textile Design: explores colour co-ordination and pattern design for fashion and soft furnishings, and textiles as art and sculpture. Development is achieved through a variety of processes including printing, CAD, fashion illustration and mood boards/interior design.

Food & Nutrition: Understanding the scientific nutrition and health and safety behind catering processes is a core part of studying Food & Nutrition as an academic subject. Practical activity is balanced with evidenced understanding of food budgeting and meal planning, different dietary/health needs and operating safe working practices.

If you have any questions about the options available please speak to your child's tutor in the first instance.

Regards



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